

May 23-24, 2013

ITEM 159-1005-R0513

Technology Modular Units, The University of Montana - Missoula

THAT

The Board of Regents for the Montana University System authorizes The University of Montana-Missoula to construct the infrastructure and install Technology Modular Units on campus to provide safe and secure data storage for the university's network infrastructure, intellectual property, and administrative and academic records stored in data format.

EXPLANATION

The goal of the Technology Modular Units project is to protect University-owned networking infrastructure, intellectual property, and administrative and academic records stored in data format. The networking and IT equipment that stores and manages these resources represent some the University's most valuable assets. This project will eliminate the exposure to constant threats from our obsolete and inadequate data and networking locations that are expensive to operate and rife with environmental vulnerabilities and single points of failure. It will strengthen the reliability of data networking and computing ability by relocating the equipment from its current basement location.

The modular units will be located north of the existing Heating Plant. The units will address current problems of power outages, overheating conditions and flooding, which result in costly downtimes and equipment failures. The modular units will be self-contained, using outside air and adiabatic cooling system known as "ICE Cube Air." Units will integrate network, server, power distribution, UPS, cooling and weather protection in a scalable IT equipment enclosure system. A 16-rack system consisting of a vestibule, one head unit and three expansion units is needed to serve the networking and research goals of the Missoula campus.

The proposed Technology Modular Units project has also been reviewed and approved by the State Information Technology Service Division.

The schematic design has produced a project cost of approximately \$2.6 million, of which 65% is equipment cost. The estimate to construct a traditional data center was well over \$5.0 million. This plan is significantly more cost effective.

The project will be financed over a 10-year period using Inter Cap or other financing means. The debt will be serviced by the Technology Fee. The student leadership has endorsed this plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Budget

Attachment 2 – Modular Unit Layout Sketch Rendering